



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, October 3, 2016

10:00 AM

AUDIO OF THE ENTIRE MEETING. (16-4535)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Candace Cooper,
Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Sydney Kamlager,
Commissioner John Kim, Commissioner Liz Seipel,
Commissioner Janet Teague and Vice Chair Jacquelyn
McCroskey

Absent: Commissioner Genevra Berger, Commissioner Maria Brenes,
Commissioner Wendy Garen, Vice Chair Wendy B. Smith and
Chair Sunny Kang

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order. (16-4527)

Vice Chair McCroskey called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m., noting a lack of quorum. Commissioners Biondi, Cooper and Kamlager joined the meeting after it was called to order, establishing a quorum of members in attendance.

2. Introduction of meeting attendees. (16-4536)

Members of the public were invited to introduce themselves.

3. Approval of the minutes from the September 19, 2016 meeting. (16-4528)

This item was tabled to allow a quorum of members to be present. After a quorum was established, on motion of Commissioner Seipel, seconded by Commissioner Teague (Commissioners Berger, Brenes, Garen, Vice Chair Smith and Chair Kang being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Chair's Report. (16-4529)

In the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair McCroskey reported the following;

- Chair Kang was unable to attend today's meeting because he is out of town;**
- The Community Child Welfare Coalition is holding its third Town Hall Meeting on Friday, October 14, 2016 from 11a.m. and 1 p.m., at the City of Refuge in Gardena. The topic will be Prevention vs. Prediction; the Office of Child Protection will be presenting on the Countywide Prevention Initiative and Vice Chair McCroskey will also speak about the Commission's role in the initiative. Please contact Tamara N. Hunter, Executive Director if you are interested in attending;**
- The Los Angeles Community College District is having a Foster Youth Summit on Friday, October 28, 2016, beginning at 9 a.m. It will be held at Los Angeles Mission College. Please advise Tamara if you plan to attend; and**
- Assembly Bill 2442, Density Bonus for At Risk Populations was signed into law on September 28, 2016. Commissioner Curry was acknowledged for encouraging the Commission to submit a letter in support of this bill to State legislators in June 2016.**

5. Report by Phillip L. Browning, Director, Department of Children and Family Services. (16-4530)

Philip L. Browning, Director of Children and Family Services (DCFS) reported the following:

- The Board approved additional positions for the DCFS immersion offices during the Supplemental Budget Hearing last Tuesday; this is one of the initiatives included the Katie A. lawsuit settlement. In addition, they approved a new concept of staff mentoring. DCFS will work with SEIU and hopes to use the mentoring program as a road map to better outcomes for children. The goal is to establish a formalized mentoring program that will allow every new social worker to have a mentor. Mentors would have lowered caseloads. The current caseload**

average is 24, and the goal is to reduce caseloads to 20; the attrition rate is at 18%. There are not many mentoring programs with a formalized structure for social workers; however, DCFS has an aggressive plan to move the program forward;

- DCFS has hired 1,500 new social workers; however, office space hasn't been increased to match. The Board approved an emergency motion to acquire space in Palmdale. Conference rooms have been turned into work space for staff and workers are encouraged to work from home, since finding office space is currently a challenge;
- DCFS continues to work on implementation of Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) which goes into effect January 2017. There are still many unresolved issues at the State level;
- Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) is changing its eligibility system this month. This system will replace the LEADER System and provide a functionality that currently does not exist;
- Four (4) DCFS Social Workers were awarded the Cornelia Funke Award; they received cash awards, time off and a vacation. This recognition was assisted by Astrid Heger, with the support of Cornelia Funke, who is a world renowned children's author; and
- HR 5456, the Family First Prevention Act, was not passed during the latest legislative session. This bill would dramatically change the way IV-E is financed. There are many concerns with the provisions; the Senate has recessed until after the elections.

III. PRESENTATIONS

6. Progress Update on the Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships

- Kate Anderson, Director, Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnership within the Office of Child Protection (16-4531)

Kate Anderson, Director, Center for Strategic Public Private Partnership (Center) within the Office of Child Protection, provided an update on the progress of the Center and reported the following:

- The Center launched six (6) months ago, on April 1, 2016;
- Los Angeles County is at an inflection point for children and families due to the focus of the Board of Supervisors, the soon to be

released Chief Executive Office's strategic plan, which supports work in progress pertaining to children and families, the Commission for Children and Families (CCF) and an engaged philanthropic community;

- The Center is not the first entity of its kind; however, it is unique in that it is the first to be housed within a county with specific focus on vulnerable children and families. Several similar entities exist across the nation and can serve as learning platforms. The City of Los Angeles' Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnership serves as one such example;
- The Center acts as "translator" and the "eyes and ears"; it strives to build connective tissue and facilitate communication between the County, non-profits and the philanthropic communities;
- The Center works to identify potential opportunities in which private dollars can support the County's work and funding; align priorities; aid in the development of initiatives; and identify funding. Although initiatives have not reached this point yet, the Center will also monitor initiatives, all with the goal of improving outcomes for children and families;
- Since the release of its 90 day report, the Center has conducted over 100 meetings as part of a "listening tour";
- The Center will only work to address issues within the purview of the Office of Child Protection and has identified the top three priorities in which both the County and philanthropic sector have the strongest intersection of interest;(1) prevention, (2) recruitment and retention of resource families and (3) support of transition age youth (TAY);
- The Office of Child Protection (OCP) has identified prevention as a top priority and has convened a workgroup in this area;
- CCR and the lack of resource families is another critical area. The philanthropic community is committed to assisting the County in recruitment and retention of both relative and non-relative care givers; and
- There are several County initiatives underway to support TAY and funders are also interested in supporting this population.

Vice Chair McCroskey commented that the three priorities identified by

the Center are also the CCF's identified priority, areas and expressed a desire to coordinate efforts with the center on strategic philanthropy. Ms. Anderson stated that she will provide contact information to Commissioners and expressed interest in regularly participating in CCF meetings. Ms. Anderson also asked the CCF to support the initiatives in which the Center is involved.

Ms. Anderson provided an overview of five of the Center's initiatives that may be of interest to the CCF:

- The first initiative is OCP's Prevention Workgroup and efforts in this area. The Casey Foundation agreed to expand the scope of an existing environmental scan to include the work of the Prevention Workgroup by assessing the services that are available in several areas within the County. Partners in the philanthropic community have been notified of the scan and if it proves useful, there will be an ask to fund a Countywide scan of similar scope;
 - o The Center is developing an initiative with Partnership for Early Childhood Investment, a group of funders dedicated to prevention for children ages zero to five; and
 - o The Center has recognized that home visiting is a key component of prevention and has been working in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and others in the philanthropic community to develop resources to expand home visitation services.
- The second initiative is to support the completion of a Countywide environmental scan of services available for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) youth. A previous study conducted by the Williams Institute found that LGBTQ youth are twice as likely to end up in the dependency system or the juvenile justice system. In response to the report, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl introduced a Board motion to commission a study to review and improve County departments' provision of services to LGBTQ youth;
 - o It was determined that the original scope of the study needed to be expanded to truly meet the County's objectives. Although lead consultants conducting the study are willing to complete part of the work pro-bono, an additional \$50,000 was required for staffing. Several philanthropic organizations have been engaged to

assist with funding, and have been asked to develop a partnership that will allow them to remain connected to the issue and actively involved with implementation of recommendations upon the study's completion; and

- o The Center will be working in collaboration with other partners to address the needs of TAY and is open to potential opportunities.
- The third initiative is family finding. LA County is doing a great job of placing children with relatives, as 51% of children are placed with relative caregivers; however, the Board of Supervisors passed a motion instructing the OCP to work in collaboration with other County departments to prioritize upfront family finding and services and supports for relative caregivers. DCFS is developing a pilot program and the Center is working to identify partners to assist in funding an evaluation of the pilot;
- The fourth initiative is the Non Profit Sustainability Initiative (NSI). NSI is a source of funds established by the philanthropic sector that can be utilized by non-profits to assist them with forming strategic partnerships to achieve specific objectives. For example, CCR will require Foster Family Agencies (FFA) to provide many more mental health services, which will require mental health contracts. FFAs unable to obtain mental health contracts independently may want to strategically partner with other FFAs to meet this requirement. The NSI would be a resource available to fund these partnerships. As another example, group homes that are unable to meet CCR requirements independently may want to merge, but lack the funding to undergo a merger. The NSI would also be a resource for them;
 - o The Center will be hosting a meeting with interested partners and provide information about NSI on December 5, 2016 at Saint Anne's.
- The fifth initiative involves the Center's work to host a one-day convening in partnership with philanthropy, County departments and members of the faith based community;
 - o The goal of this convening is to bring together potential resource families to educate them on what it means to be a resource family and to immediately address known barriers to recruitment, such as live scanning, completing documentation, requesting records, etc; and
 - o The idea is derived from the experiences of a pastor who was able to sign up 200 families to become resource families; however,

due to numerous systemic barriers only five were successful.

Ms. Anderson noted that the Center is also involved with an initiative focusing on homelessness among TAY, which is the subject of the next presentation on the agenda.

Vice Chair McCroskey thanked Ms. Anderson for the presentation.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

7. Initiatives for Youth: Coordinated Entry System for Youth and HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project-NOFA

· Angela Rosales, Youth Systems Integration Manager, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (16-4878)

Angela Rosales, Youth Systems Integration Manager, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), introduced this item and stated that there is currently a Coordinated Entry System (CES) in place for homeless single adults and families that is funded and supported by the United Way, Home for Good, and a collaboration of funders.

She stated that working with an active funder collaborative allows for increased coordination of funding and indicated that Home for Good is very interested in expanding their scope to include homeless families, youth, and young adults.

Ms. Rosales reviewed a PowerPoint presentation and reported the following:

- **CES was first piloted in the County in 2012 for single adults and families;**
- **Prior to CES, many clients felt that housing was based on luck. They did not know all the entry points that were available or how to access them. Because housing is often available on a first come, first served basis, clients were placed in whatever housing resource was available at the moment, which made it hard for placements in housing programs appropriate to meet or fit their needs;**
- **According to provider partners, it was difficult to serve youth with high level needs such as, mental health issues, in traditional housing programs;**

- **CES employs a “no wrong door” approach, access points are known and everyone uses the same tools;**
- **The goal is to understand the needs of individuals and families entering the system in order to better connect them to housing and resources that meet their needs;**
- **Service and systems alignment has been very thoughtful and the work is ongoing;**
- **Youth CES was piloted in 2015 and assessment serves as an initial triage tool to collect critical information that will inform recommendations;**
- **The most vulnerable and those with severe needs are prioritized in housing programs with higher levels of supportive resources and with indefinite lengths of stay;**
- **Every individual and family is supported with housing navigation services and ongoing case management;**
- **In addition to being offered resources, youth are matched to housing navigators that will help them find an apartment and work with landlords. CES ensures that youth have access to stable housing and are connected to ongoing, long term support in the community;**
- **There are three (3) intersecting systems, CES for Families, CES for Single Adults and CES for Youth. The goal is to ensure that there is consistency regardless of the door clients use to enter;**
- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a mandated database that allows communication across SPAs to support care coordination;**
- **LAHSA has realigned their model for consistency with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) , which has four (4) different outcome areas: Housing Stability, Education and Employment, Permanent Connection, and Health and Well-being;**
- **Youth CES planning started in November 2014 with a two and a half day convening attended by over 75 participating agencies. LAHSA**

brought in agencies that were already doing CES to share lessons learned and key points of consideration;

- Key Youth CES principles include lowering barriers, increasing accessibility, fairness and equity in the system, flexibility, and youth driven decision making;
- LAHSA utilizes data and constant communication to improve the system as they move forward;

Youth CES System Flow:

- LAHSA is continuously learning how to collaborate better with partners;
- Key existing entry points include, outreach, drop in centers, shelters, Department of Mental Health (DMH), DCFS, and Probation Department (PD);
- The work to develop schools, community programs, and other systems as entry points is ongoing;
- The Los Angeles County Office of Education is part of LAHSA's System Leaders Team and community programs have good relationships with the Youth CES;
- LAHSA has been a partner in P3, a Performance Partnership Pilot, and works to ensure that linkage is taking place;
- Members from LAHSA's System Leaders Group, such as the Department of Public Social Services and the Department of Health Services, are reviewing their youth homelessness and housing insecurity screening and linkage processes;
- Each youth that enters the system will have an initial assessment using the "next step" tool, which is also used in single adults and family CES, the HMIS and Care Coordination;
- With Care Coordination, youth with high level needs are reviewed and matched to the most appropriate housing resource;

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- **Youth can be matched with the following housing resource types:**
 - o **Family reunification – there are a number of youth reunifying with family. This category can be challenging because youth and their family or extended family members are provided support;**
 - o **Shared housing – the most economical way for youth to afford housing;**
 - o **Rapid Rehousing - a short term subsidy that includes case management services. The subsidy decreases as the individual is able to pay more rent, with the ultimate goal client eventually taking over the lease; and**
 - o **Section 8 Voucher – for young people with very high needs, who are in need of support for more than two (2) years.**
 - **This is a coordinated effort that brings together new and existing resources to support young people in a way that best fits their needs;**
 - **One of LAHSA’s providers reported that for the entire duration of the Youth CES pilot in Hollywood, they had 100% occupancy. LAHSA was able to identify youth who fit the eligibility criteria of the program and match them with housing, which helps alleviate the outreach burden for Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) providers;**
 - **Children’s Hospital plays the Youth CES coordinator role. They have full time staff managing the process and matching youth;**
 - **Public agencies have been instrumental. For example, DMH has housing stabilizers and navigators that participate in care coordination meetings.**
 - **DCFS and PD Independent Living Program (ILP) eligibility forms are part of the “next step” tool packet. Youth CES is consistently asking about and verifying youth involvement with the foster care system and eligibility for ILP and other related resources;**
 - **As of September 21, 2016, a snapshot of the pilot indicated that of 556 youth screened, 287 were potentially chronically homeless, and 148 youth were housed;**

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- **LAHSA focuses on data and providing technical assistance.**
 - **Outcomes are tracked continuously utilizing data from the HMIS;**
 - **Lead agencies in every SPA participated in LAHSA's 100 Day Challenge, with a goal of housing 100 youth in 100 days using the Youth CES.**

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Rosales noted the following:

- **Of the 148 youth housed in the pilot, many were chronically homeless at some point;**
- **LAHSA is planning to release its youth count report, which will detail the number of chronically homeless youth, as well as those who have been involved with the foster care system;**
- **Of the unsheltered youth, 34% were involved with the foster care system;**
- **LAHSA is hoping tap into possible resources available through work with homeless liaisons in schools;**
- **They wanted to keep the scope of the pilot manageable, therefore, they did not partner with local high schools; however, that is next step;**
- **Shifting from creaming to prioritization is an ongoing process;**
- **If youth need more treatment than their program can provide, there are open communication loops;**
- **The system is flexible enough to transition youth to the next long term housing resource that becomes available;**
- **The pilot targeted Hollywood and youth that entered through drop- in centers, shelters, or DMH; and**
- **They learned that youth were coming from different SPAs. As they scale up, they will check in with the County on a more regular basis to get the County's perspective on how often youth are accessing resources in different SPAs, as well as how to coordinate services across SPAs to meet their needs.**

Ms. Rosales presented information regarding the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program and announced that there is an opportunity for HUD funding. She explained that the funding will allow 10 communities across the country to access \$33 million; each community can apply for funds between \$1-15 million.

Ms. Rosales explained the terms of the funding opportunity, and stated that LAHSA will engage in a community planning process to develop and submit a community plan to end youth homelessness. If awarded, the program is estimated to begin April 3, 2017 and end on April 21, 2021.

Ms. Rosales added that whatever is funded will be used for renewable projects; these projects will be funded perpetually. Ms. Rosales invited the Commission to help identify the right people to participate in a community planning meeting scheduled for October 14, 2016. Commissioners were asked to submit suggestions to Tamara.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Rosales explained that one of the requirements for the funding is to consider the needs of pregnant youth and the young parent population.

With regard to the consistency of HUD funding with the existing plans, Ms. Rosales stated that LAHSA is conducting a homeless youth gap analysis to identify the different housing resources needed and to ensure that linkages are being made across the different plans.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

8. A Sense of Home
- Georgie Smith, Founder and Executive Director, A Sense of Home
 - Yolanda Elam, Program Director, A Sense of Home (16-4880)

There was no discussion or action taken on this item.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on item(s) of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (16-4533)

No member of the public addressed the Commission.

10. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (16-4532)

There were no matters presented.

11. Adjournment. (16-4534)

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.